

THE BATTLE OF AUSTERLITZ.

ward, my lads!" exclaimed I to my troop. "See how your brothers and friends are being cut to pieces. Avenge them! avenge our flag! Forward!" These few words roused my men. We advanced as swiftly as our horses could carry us upon the artillery, which was taken. The enemy's cavalry, which awaited us firmly, was repulsed by the same shock, and fled in disorder, galloping as we did over the wrecks of our squares. The Russians rallied; but a squadron of horse grenadiers came up to re-enforce me, and thus enabled me to hold ground against the reserves of the Russian Guard. We charged again, and this charge was terrible. The brave Morland was killed by my side. It was downright butchery. We were opposed man to man, and were so mingled together that the infantry of neither one nor the other side could venture to fire for fear of killing its own men. At length the intrepidity of our troops overcame every obstacle, and the Russians fled in disorder, in sight of the two Emperors of Russia and Austria, who had stationed themselves on a height in order to witness the battle. They saw a desperate one," said Rapp, "and I trust they were satisfied. For my part, my dear friend, I never spent so glorious a day. What a reception the Emperor gave me when I returned to inform him that we had won the battle! My sword was broken, and a wound which I received on my head was bleeding copiously, so that I was covered with blood! He made me a General of Division. The Russians did not return to the charge; we had taken all their cannon and baggage, and Prince Repnin was among the prisoners."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There is something strange about the position and behavior of the Russian army after Austerlitz. See Savary (tome ii. chap. xvii.), in which he hints that the Russians only escaped worse defeat the day after the battle by bad faith. Jomini says nothing on the subject, but he owed much to Alexander when he wrote. On the battle itself Jomini puts the following in the mouth of Napoleon, "Such was the famous day of Austerlitz, —of all the pitched fights I have won that of which I am the proudest, as much on account of the enemy over whom I triumphed as on account of the circumstances which made all my combinations succeed as if I had commanded both armies and as if we had agreed upon the manoeuvres. Uhn, Marengo, Jena, Ratisbon, were as brilliant victories, but they were the result of strategical manoeuvres and of a series of combats. The most remarkable tactical battles are Austerlitz, Rivoli, and Dresden" (Jomini, tome ii. p. 193). See Thiers's vivid account, tome vi. livre xxiii. Also Hamley's *Operations*, pp. 379 and 409. Jomini's opinion must be that of every soldier, but he does not